

## Clunbury Playgroup

Clunbury is fortunate to have a thriving playgroup right here in the village. Every Monday in term time, from 9am till 11.30am, the village hall is ringing with the sound of happy children. Different toys and activities are set out each week so that the children have the opportunity to experience many different things. There are puzzles and jigsaws, bikes and cars, a designated baby area, climbing frame, sand and water, instruments, paint and craft, sports equipment, cookery, construction, dressing up and many, many more things to do. Equipment is provided to support imaginative, physical and creative play.



This is a warm and friendly group and everyone is welcome. No need to book, just turn up. It costs £2.50 per family and this includes refreshments for adults and children. Our next session will be on Monday 11 April from 9am.

**Apologies for an error in our last issue - the correct number for Shropdoc is 0333 222 66 55**

## Pampering Friends

The Friends of Clunbury School have had a busy spring term, raising much-needed funds.

We were overwhelmed by the success of our first ever Pamper Evening. Heavily discounted treatments were fully booked up and we enjoyed facials, massages, manicures and HD brows together with beauty products, perfumes, lingerie, cards, health supplements and gifts on sale. We were spoiled by the range of delicious homemade cakes and a few glasses of Prosecco. Raffle prizes included hundreds of pounds worth of treatments at local salons, as well as many chocolate and alcoholic treats. We raised almost £700 and would like to thank everyone who took part or came along. An evening to be repeated!



We would like to thank everyone in the community who contributes in any way towards our events. Your support means that we have purchased new computers, iPads, cameras and reading books this year, for the whole school to use. We have also been able to subsidise the ever-growing transport costs to take children to sports, arts and music events - such a vital part of the wider curriculum.

Our next event: a family fun day, at Clunbury School on Sunday 22 May.

*Playgroup and School news from Suzanne Hadwen*

**Please send your contributions by the 20th of each month**

## Clunton Village Hall

### Coffee Morning Bring and Buy Tombola

**Saturday 16 April  
10am to 12.30pm**

Entrance: £1 inc a  
tea or coffee



*Cakes, bacon or  
sausage baps to buy*

Opportunity to bring "stuff" you no longer  
want - but someone else will!!

*Please come and support your  
Village Hall*

## Clunbury Village Hall

### Fun Quiz



*Ploughman's supper  
optional*



**Saturday 23 April, 7.30pm**

Teams of six

Quiz: £2.50 per person

Optional Supper: £2.50

Tea, coffee and soft drinks available

*No bar – Bring your own*

To book a table contact Eirlys Ellams  
660625 or email

ellams999@btinternet.com

## Rocke Cottage Tea Rooms, Abcott

Following its temporary recent closure, owner Chris Williams is working with John Bates and Liz Smith to re-open the tea-rooms toward the end of April, after a brief refurbishment. The target for opening is St George's Day (23 April), and the plan is to continue as a quality tea-room while also offering occasional candle-lit suppers. Vintage car gatherings are on the agenda too. We wish them well and look forward to the opening.

## Charity Bookshop Re-opens

The bookshop in Craven Arms enjoyed brisk trade at its rebirth on 19 March having been closed since December. It is still a charity bookshop but is now run by volunteers under the umbrella of the South Shropshire Furniture Scheme. SSFS is a leading Social Enterprise Group committed to supporting people in need.

Although it is no longer run by *The Severn Hospice*, they will benefit from a proportion of the profits annually.

The shop would greatly appreciate donations of good quality books, CDs, DVDs and jigsaws, and your custom. Donations can be left at the shop during opening hours: Monday to Friday 9.30–4.30 and Saturday 9.30–1.00. We look forward to seeing you soon.

*Eirlys Ellams*

## Royal Vintage Tea

*to celebrate, in style,  
the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday*

Kempton Village Hall  
Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April  
from 3pm onwards



*All welcome*

Sandwiches and Cakes  
Raffle

No entry fee  
Donations towards Village Hall funds welcome

## Good News - The Tap is Back...

It was completely smashed by yet another reversing van, but now has been replaced by Mark Grimes. Those of you who use it will know which one, and be glad it is in use again!!



## Clunbury 100 Club March Draw

Tara Davies £20; Joey Matveieff £15;  
Ned Morris £10; J Beazley £5; Sue Berry £3

## Native, Spanish or a bit of both?

Late April/early May is bluebell time. We are blessed, both nationally and locally – the best shows are to be found in the British Isles and our parish isn't short of them; here are a few examples. If you're being driven from the Hundred House towards Clunton, tell your driver to concentrate on the road whilst you look across to the left, where the flowers turn a steep slope below Clunton Coppice a vivid blue. And, if you're down near Cwm, look up towards the edges of the woodlands where, in a similar way, bluebells persist in quantity on what was once, presumably, wooded ground. To walk amongst them try parking near the Fiddler's Elbow and, as you start up the track onto the Black Hill, take the small footpath to the right running above the road; alternatively take the public footpath from Kempton up past Sunnyside Barn towards Edgton and, as you reach Short Wood, look to your left.

The bluebells in your gardens may not, however, be native bluebells but Spanish bluebells or hybrids, both of which have been widely sold. Spanish bluebells are a paler blue, with flowers which are more bell-shaped and appear all round the stem rather than drooping to one side of it; they have broader leaves and blue rather than cream-coloured pollen; hybrids are intermediate between the two. In the wild, in the British Isles, the Spanish bluebell was first noted as a garden escapee in 1909, the hybrid not until 1963; but both are now widely recorded. However, for full-on blue and seductive scent, native bluebells are the real business.

*John Clayfield, Dave Simpson and Tom Wall*



## It's That Drratted Prickly Subject Again!

Most hedgehogs will now be awakening from their hibernation and will be in desperate need of a drink. So would you, if you hadn't had one for the last three months or more - and we're just talking water here - never mind alcohol! A heavy shallow dish of water is a life saver and any meaty dog or cat food (not fish flavour) would help regain all that lost weight.



On a completely different tack, readers may be interested to know that hedgehogs are not "filthy, flea ridden animals" - as overheard in the Crown. The last time we rescued a hog with fleas was 1996, and we have had hundreds of flea-free patients since then. They are actually quite clean little creatures, and, at the risk of making a sexist remark, particularly the females - who also tend not to trash their cages like the boys do!

Finally, if you see a hedgehog out during the day it almost certainly needs help. Put it in a deep sided cardboard box, keep it warm (a hot water bottle covered in an old towel is ideal - so long as the hog can get away if it becomes too hot) and contact the British Hedgehog Society (01584 890801) who will give you the details of a local rehabilitator.

*Jenny Aylwin-Foster*



**Advance Notice  
2016**



**Garden & Produce Show**  
**Saturday 3 September**  
**Lydbury North Village Hall**  
**2.00-4.30pm**

Organised by South West Shropshire  
Gardening Club  
Open to Members and Non-Members  
**Refreshments & Plant Stall**

## NHS – the Bad News Continues

**R**eshaped plans for Future Fit should be made public soon. It is expected to be based on reducing services from our current two hospitals at Shrewsbury and Telford by around 30%, closing both A and E departments and having one single Emergency Centre at one of the sites which will only accept patients taken in by ambulance. There will be Urgent Care Centres at both hospitals dealing with walk-in patients.

The idea is that many general services, care of those with long term conditions, tests, monitoring, minor injuries and a range of other functions, will be carried out in the community, nearer the patient's location, on the grounds that 'home is best'. This is a fine idea in principle – one of the few really good ideas to come out of Future Fit, but local NHS bosses have just confirmed that there is no funding available to invest in this community plan. Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) executives suggest that it may be possible to pay for Community Fit from savings made by first downgrading existing hospital services over the next four or five years. Just how patients are to be cared for in the meantime – particularly in areas like Clunbury – has not yet been worked out.

To gloss over this problem, the CCG is holding 'locality briefings' around the county when invited guests are asked how they think people would like to be cared for and how best that could be done. At a recent meeting in Bishop's Castle, officials were left in no doubt about local opinion – and were lambasted by one very angry GP.

The CCG is now going after our community hospitals, in a bid to cut even more costs, by claiming that their beds are 'three-fold more expensive' than those in the 'independent sector'. There is no explanation of where these other beds are in Shropshire, or

acknowledgement of the added value of having local in-patient beds, for those who cannot be cared for at home but do not need acute hospital care miles away from family and friends.

Non-emergency patient transport for those who cannot or do not drive, or do not have generous neighbours, is also coming under scrutiny. There seems to be scant understanding of the problems of living in isolated rural communities with little or no public transport.

The promised review into rationing hip and knee replacements either hasn't happened or is being kept under wraps. There are also anecdotal stories of a new policy to reduce carpal tunnel operations and to carry them out only when a hand is totally unusable. I would like to hear from anyone with information on either of these new policies. If this goes on, there may be grounds for a judicial review into age discrimination or something similar. Contact Sylvia Jones on 660114.

*Sylvia Jones*



### **Don't Let the SpArC go out**

**The Sport and Arts Centre (SpArC) in Bishop's Castle needs your help**

**There is a real danger of the Centre closing, as Council Funding will be reduced to ZERO in 2017**

**£250,000 is needed urgently  
Donations of any amount welcome**

**To donate, visit:**

**[www.podiumpartners.org](http://www.podiumpartners.org)  
and search for SpArC**

**Cash or cheques can be donated at Enterprise House in Bishop's Castle  
Cheques made payable to Enterprise House (SpArC fund)**

**More information:  
[www.savethesparc.org](http://www.savethesparc.org)**

## Parish Council Meeting 17 March

Eight councillors present, plus Shropshire Councillor Nigel Hartin and three members of the public. Apologies from Cllr Morgan.

**Matters arising:** *Shropdoc*: Cllr S Jones reported that, as a result of overwhelming public support in favour of retaining this service (as opposed to replacing it with the 111 telephone service), the CCGs have agreed to extend the Shropdoc contract for two years, but, at the end of this period the contract will go out to tender.

*Kempton AED unit*: not yet replaced – follow-up enquiries will be made.

*'Big Conversation'*: Cllr S Jones attended SC's workshop at which services were discussed in the light of financial cuts. After ring-fenced services have been taken into account, only £25 million will be available for the other 150 plus services currently supported. Council Tax has been increased by 3.99%.

**Parish Plan Review**: a pack containing all the background details behind the Review will be made available to Councillors, and other interested bodies, to enhance future decision-making.

**Local Joint Committee**: the last meeting, due to discuss the local NHS Future Fit plan, was postponed. The next meeting, which will be attended by the new leader of Shropshire Council, Malcolm Pate, will be on Thursday 14 April. (See details below right.)

**Roads:** *Roadworks*: it was agreed that the signage for the recent diversion caused by roadworks at Hopton Heath was very misleading but the road closure had been beneficial for Twitchen in re-routing lorries. Enquiries would be made to see if this could be adopted on a permanent basis.

**Correspondence**: Cllr Croxton had received a letter concerning commemorative medals for the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. It was agreed that he and

Cllr Harding approach the school to see if there was any interest.

**Any Other Business:** *Tree warden/Parish Paths Organiser*: both these posts were vacant but Jill Harvey of Clunbury has agreed to take them over on a trial basis. Phone 661039 if you wish to report problems with footpaths.

*Clunton Burial Ground*: Mrs Gerrard thanked the Council for clearing the path. Cllr Davies agreed to organise further cutting back of trees and bushes.

*Clunton Brook*: the occupant of Bridge House has reported that the brook is undermining a hedge and shed on his property, despite his attempts to strengthen the bank, and asked if the Parish Council could do anything to help. It was agreed to try to find out which body is responsible for this type of problem.

*Parish Councils' Joint Meeting*: Cllr S Jones reported that other local councils have proposed a joint meeting to discuss the problems caused by lack of SC and local NHS funding. Cllr Hartin said this need would be addressed by the LJC meeting in April.

*Future Role of Parish Councils*: Cllr Hartin reported that due to lack of funding at county level, SC may in future expect Parish Councils to take over the provision of some services.

*Future of SpArC in Bishop's Castle*: Cllr Hartin brought the 'Don't let the SpArC go out!' campaign to the notice of the PC. Local fundraising is needed to finance this facility in the future.

**Next meeting**: Thursday 19 May, 8pm, Clunton Village Hall, preceded by the Annual Parish Assembly at 7.30pm.

*Sue Hill*

**The Leader of Shropshire Council,  
Malcolm Pate, will speak at the LJC  
Meeting on Thursday 14 April 7.00pm  
at SpArC, Bishop's Castle.**

**The meeting is open to the public  
Hear first hand about funding cuts  
and our future**



### Events Diary for APRIL 2016

Sat 2	7.30pm	Flicks—Spectre - 640254	Clun Memorial Hall
Sun 3	11.15am	Morning Prayer	St Swithin's, Clunbury
Sun 3	7pm	Songs of Praise in four-part harmony. Tel 661171 for info	Kempton Village Hall
Tue 5	7.30pm	Flicks—The Lady in the Van - 680302	Lydbury North Village Hall
Wed 6		Quiz—proceeds to Midlands Air Ambulance	Kangaroo Inn, Aston on Clun
Fri 8	7.30pm	Bouzatina - 680511	Lydbury North Village Hall
Sun 10	1-4pm	Hardy Plant Society Spring Plant Fair, Bicton, Shrewsbury	Bicton Village Hall
Sun 10	6.30pm	Joint Evening Prayer	St Swithin's, Clunbury
Mon 11		Clunbury School start of Summer Term	
Mon 11	9-11.30am	Parent & Toddler Group every Mon in term time. Just turn up	Clunbury Village Hall
Tue 12		Mobile Library: Clunbury Bridge 10.10-10.30am, Clunton 10.40-11.00am,	Obley 12.45-12.55pm
Wed 13		Tim's Travels to Orchestra of the Swan - 640506	Birmingham Town Hall
Wed 13	8pm	Bishop's Castle Film Society - Homesman	Three Tuns, Bishop's Castle
Thu 14	10-11.30am	Clunbury Café	Clunbury Village Hall
Thu 14	7pm	South West Shropshire Local Joint Committee Meeting	SpArC, Bishop's Castle
Sat 16	10-12.30pm	Coffee Morning, Bring & Buy, Tombola	Clunton Village Hall
Sat 16	10am-1pm	Craft & Collectables Market	Aston on Clun Village Hall
Sat 16	7.30pm	Flicks - The Lady in the Van	Aston on Clun Village Hall
Sun 17	From 3pm	Royal Vintage Tea	Kempton Village Hall
Sun 17	6.30pm	Evening Prayer	St Swithin's, Clunbury
Mon 18	2-4pm	BC & District Carers Group - Wiltshire Farm Foods	Boar's Head Hotel, BC
Fri 22	8pm	Flicks—The Lady in the Van	Clungunford Village Hall
Sat 23	7.30pm	Clunbury Village Hall Fun Quiz	Clunbury Village Hall
Sun 24	11.15am	Joint CW Holy Communion	St Mary's, Clunton
Sun 24	2-5pm	Northern Harmony Workshop	St Cuthbert's, Clungunford
Sun 24	7pm	Northern Harmony Concert	St Cuthbert's, Clungunford
Mon 25	7.30pm	Live Acoustic Folk Music	The Crown Inn, Clunton
Tue 26		Mobile Library: Clunbury Bridge 10.10-10.30am, Clunton 10.40-11.00am,	Obley 12.45-12.55pm
Wed 27	7.30pm	SWSGC - 'Ranunculaceae: not just a load of old buttercups!'	Lydbury North Village Hall
Wed 27	8pm	Bishop's Castle Film Society - Whiplash	Three Tuns, Bishop's Castle
Thu 28	10-11.30am	Clunbury Café	Clunbury Village Hall
Thu 28	7pm	Film - The Bigger Picture	SpArC
Sat 30	7.30pm	Flicks - The Lady in the Van-640254	Clun Memorial Hall

### May 2016

Sun 1	2-6pm	NGS Open Garden for cancer and caring charities	Millichope Park, Munslow
Sun 1	7pm	Songs of Praise in four-part harmony. Tel 661171 for info.	Kempton Village Hall
Mon 2		Green Man Day	Clun

## SWS Gardening Club

"Ranunculaceae:

not just a load of old buttercups!"

Wednesday 27 April, 7.30pm

Lydbury North Village Hall

[www.gardeningshropshire.co.uk](http://www.gardeningshropshire.co.uk)

## CONTACTS

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